

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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21

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05

MC-02 ACDA-05 /069 W

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R 120920Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2055

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 6150

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, KS

SUBJECT: SCM: PRESIDENT'S INTEREST IN HARPOON MISSILE

1. DURING AUG 9 LUNCHEON HE GAVE AT CHINHAIE FOR CODEL WOLFF, PRESIDENT PARK, IN HEARING OF CONGRESSMEN CLANCY AND YATRON, EXPRESSED TO CHARGE HIS DISAPPOINTMENT OVER DELAYS IN AVAILABILITY OF HARPOON MISSILES. HE RELATED TO CONGRESSMEN FACT THAT NORTH KOREANS POSSESS EXTENSIVE INVENTORY OF OSA AND KOMAR BOATS EQUIPPED WITH STYX MISSILE AND LAMENTED THAT ROK NAVY HAS NOTHING WITH WHICH TO COUNTER THEM. ROKG HAD BEEN RELYING ON US TO FURNISH HARPOON BUT DELAYS HAVE BEEN ENCOUNTERED WHICH HAVE FORCED ROKG TO CONSIDER OTHER SOLUTIONS. HE THEN ASKED CHARGE WHETHER IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO RAISE THIS SUBJECT DIRECTLY WITH SECDEF DURING FORTHCOMING VISIT.

2. CHARGE REPLIED THAT IT NOT CLEAR WHETHER IT NECESSARY TO MATCH NORTH KOREANS BOAT FOR BOAT AND MISSILE FOR MISSILE AND THAT THERE OTHER MEANS SUCH AS AIRCRAFT AVAILABLE TO NEUTRALIZE WEAPONS OF THIS TYPE. CHARGE SAID NEVERTHELESS SECDEF WOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS HARPOON ISSUE WITH PRESIDENT IF LATTER WISHED TO RAISE IT.

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3. COMMENT: IF FURTHER EVIDENCE WERE NEEDED, INTENSITY

AND ABRUPTNESS WITH WHICH PRESIDENT RAISED THIS SUBJECT
INDICATES HARPOON IS VERY MUCH ON HIS MIND. OF ALL
INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS PROBLEMS HE IS PERSONALLY LIKELY TO RAISE,
CLEARLY HARPOON IS LEADING CANDIDATE.
ERICSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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